

Ken Frazier Brief Remarks

Every Woman Every Child Event – United Nations

March 10, 2015

Opening

- It is an honor for me to be here today and a special privilege to join in recognizing the important and life-saving progress that has been made as part of the *Every Woman Every Child* movement.
- Since its creation, *Every Woman Every Child* has dramatically heightened the world's awareness of these tragic and avoidable losses, and it has deepened our collective resolve to make maternal mortality a thing of the past.

Merck for Mothers - Progress and Impact

- As many of you have, my Merck colleagues and I have seen first-hand the challenges that women, health care providers and communities around the world face every day, when what should be one of the happiest of life's moments suddenly becomes fraught with sadness and despair.
- When we announced that Merck would join the fight against maternal mortality by dedicating \$500 million over 10 years through our *Merck for Mothers* initiative, we believed it was critically important to bring more than money to the table.
- To truly make a difference we needed to bring the best of Merck – our scientific and business expertise – to help find innovative ways to prevent women from dying during pregnancy and childbirth.
- Through partnerships with local, on-the-ground organizations all around the world, our programs have helped develop quality maternal health care and family planning services for an estimated 3.5 million women in 30 countries in just three-and-a-half years.
- With our partners in Uganda and Zambia we have seen maternal mortality ratios in targeted areas fall by 30 and 35 percent respectively.
- In Senegal, through our partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we are supporting the scale up of an innovative supply chain model to increase access to family planning. Thus far, we have achieved 64 percent national coverage, enabling approximately 1,000 health facilities to serve over 2.6 million women.
- Each of these successes offers an example of how the expertise of a company like Merck – working with other highly committed and knowledgeable partners -- can help move the needle on seemingly intractable global health challenges.
- And in these cases, moving the needle quite literally means saving the lives of women and children.

Importance of Private Sector Involvement in Solving Global Health Challenges

- Public-private partnerships are one of the most promising ways to help stop the tragedy of women dying during childbirth.
- I believe that these partnerships must go beyond dollars, important as funding is. I truly believe that the private sector has both the obligation and the opportunity to share its skills and knowledge to help solve some of the world's most daunting health care problems.

Moving Forward

- We have come a long way but there is still much to be done. We must never lose our focus on the health of mothers and children in the new Sustainable Development Goals agenda.
- When we think of our own families, we know that one preventable death is unacceptable.
- Merck is honored to be here today, and to continue our shared journey to end maternal mortality.